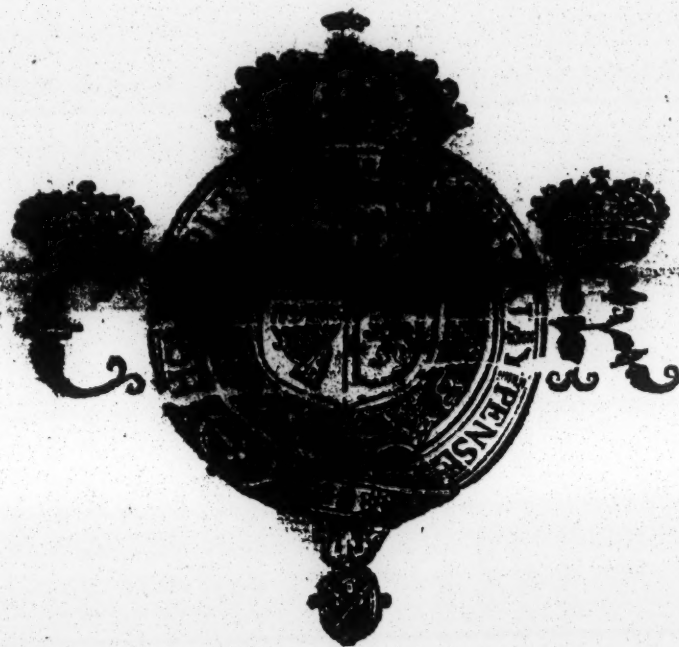


(48) (52)
HIS MAJESTIES
GRACIOUS
S P E E C H

To both Houses of
PARLIAMENT,

On Thursday, November 24. 1664.

Being the first day of their Meeting.



EDINBURGH,

Re-printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the King's most Excellent
MAJESTY, 1664.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.



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To both HOUSES of

PARLIAMENT,

On *Thursday*, November 24. 1664.

Being the first day of their Meeting.

My Lords and Gentlemen,



When VVe parted last in this place, I told you that I did not think VVe should meet here again till *November*, though I Prorogued you but to a day in *August*; but I must now tell you, That if I could have suspected, or reasonably have imagined, that Our Neighbours would have dealt so un-neighbourly with Me, and

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have

have forced Me to make such Preparations as they have done for My Defence, at so vast an expence; I say, if I could have foreseen in *August*, that they would have treated Me thus, I should not have prevented your coming together then; yet truly I have reason even to be glad that it hath been deferred thus long: You have had leisure to attend your own conveniences in the Countrey, and the publick Service there, and I have been able to let Our Neighbours see, that I can defend My Self and My Subjects, against their influence, upon the Stock of My own Credit and Reputation; and that when I find it necessary for the good of My People, I can set out a Fleet to Sea, which will not decline meeting with all their Naval Power, even before the Parliament comes together; which I am perswaded if they had believed possible, they would not so importunately have prest me to it; I will not deny to you I have done more then I thought I could have done, which I impute to the credit your Vote gave Me, and to the opinion all men have, that I did what you wished I should do, by borrowing very liberally from My self out of My own Stores, and by the kind and cheerfull assistance the
City

City of *London* hath given *Me*: *I* have a Fleet now at Sea worthy of the *English* Nation, and (to say no more) not inferiour to any that hath been set out in any age; and which (that *I* may use all freedom with you) to discharge to morrow, and replenish all *My* Stores, *I* am perswaded would cost *Me* little less then eight hundred thousand pounds.

What hath passed between *Me* and the *Dutch*, and by what degrees, accidents and provocations, *I* have been necessitated to the preparation and expence *I* have made, you shall be told when *I* have done; *I* shall onely tell you, That if *I* had proceeded more slowly, *I* should have exposed *My* own Honour, and the Honour of the Nation, and should have seemed not confident of your affections, and the assurance you gave *Me* to stand by *Me* in this occasion. That which *I* am now very earnestly to desire, and indeed expect from you, is, That you will use all possible expedition in your resolutions, lest that by unnecessary formalities, the world should think that *I* have not your full concurrence in what is done, and that you are not forward enough in the support of it, which *I* am sure you will be, and that in raising the

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Supplies,

Supplies , you take such sure order, that when the expence is obvious and certain, the Supplies be as real and substantial, not imaginary as the last Subsidies were, which you all well enough understand.

Master Speaker, and you Gentlemen of the House of Commons, I know not whether it be worth My pains to endeavour to remove a vile jealousie, which some ill men scatter abroad, and which I am sure will never sink into the breast of any man, who is worthy to sit upon your Benches, that when you have given Me a noble and proportionable supply for the support of a VVar, I may be induced by some evil Councillors (for they will be thought to think very respectively of My own Person) to make a sudden Peace, and get all that money for My own private occasions. I am sure you all think it an unworthy jealousie, and not to deserve an answer. I would not be thought to have so brutish an inclination, as to love VVar for War-sake ; God knows, I desire no blessing in this world so much, as that I may live to see a firm Peace between all Christian Princes and States : But let me tell you, and you may be most confident of it, that when I am compelled to enter into a VVar,
for

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for the protection, honour and benefit of *My Subjects*, I will (God willing) not make a Peace but upon the obtaining and securing those ends, for which the VVar is entered into ; and when that can be done, no good man will be sorry for the determination of it.

To conclude, *My Lords and Gentlemen*, I conjure you all in your several Stations, to use all possible expedition, that Our Friends and Our Enemies may see that I am possessed of your Hearts, and that VVe move with one Soul : And I am sure you will not deceive My expectation.

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